#### **Contact Information**

Lesley D. Farmer, Esq. Director, Office for Civil Rights Tennessee Department of Education (615) 253-1550 (office) (615) 532-2599 (fax)

Email: Lesley.Farmer@state.tn.us

Atlanta Office
Office for Civil Rights
United States Department of Education
61 Forsyth Street S.W., Suite 19T70
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3104
(404) 562-6350 (office)
(404) 562-6455 (fax)
(877) 521-2172 (TDD)
Email: OCR Atlanta@ed.gov



# MISSION OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS:

Ensuring equal access to education and promoting educational excellence by providing training and technical assistance to Local and State Educational Agencies throughout the State of Tennessee and through the vigorous enforcement of the civil rights statutes applicable to educational institutions within the jurisdiction of the Tennessee Department of Education.

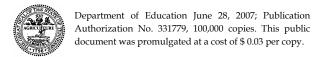
# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

## WHAT IS TITLE IX?



No person in the United States shall, <u>on the basis of sex</u>, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972



Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §1681, prohibits discrimination based on gender in all programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. Title IX also includes sexual harassment, same gender harassment as well as student to student harassment. A complainant must show s/he was subjected to quid pro quo (something for something) sexual harassment or a sexually hostile environment, that s/he provided notice of the harassment or environment to an appropriate person who was at minimum an official of the educational entity with authority to take corrective action or put an end to the discrimination, and the Local Education Agency's response to the harassment amounted to deliberate indifference.

Unlike Title VI, Title IX requires the complainant to have notified an "appropriate person" prior to seeking a remedy with an outside agency to prevent charges against a local education agency, who may be unaware that one of his or her officials is violating the law. Also unlike Title VI, Title IX broadly covers employment discrimination. In fact, the law itself prohibits discrimination in employment based on sex within an educational institution. The authority of this office is to enforce compliance through the local educational agency's potential loss of federal funding.

## Who Must Comply with Title IX?

- Students
- Teachers or other faculty
- Parents
- Coaches
- School Administrators
- Counselors
- Cafeteria employees
- Contract workers
- Bus drivers

REMEMBER!! Any person who behaves in violation of Title VI so that a protected class is unable to enjoy the programs and/or activities of the Local Education Agency could violate the statute on behalf of the school system.

# Activities Covered under Title IX

- School Athletics programs
- Special Education programs
- School Transfers
- Discipline
- Student Assignment
- Field Trips
- Student Organizations
- Classroom Instruction
- Ability Grouping
- Seat Assignment
- Water breaks
- Hall passes

And other daily activities associated with public education

#### **Coordinator Required**

Title IX requires Local Education Agencies to have a person designated to coordinate efforts to comply with and address Title IX issues. Check your district's policy and/or procedures to determine who is the Title IX coordinator

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 covers sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination; any discrimination with a basis in the differences between genders.